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Measures to promote implementation of the international drug control treaties and to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, including corruption; and proposals for new strategies, methods and practical activities in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with due regard to the gender perspective

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Joint Declaration of the signatory countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998. The 1993 Memorandum of Understanding is a framework for subregional cooperation on drug control among the said six countries together with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present note and the Joint Declaration as a document of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Asda **Jayanama**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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98-15167 (E) 030698

Annex

Joint Declaration

The Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as signatory countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control;

Gravely concerned by the increasing seriousness of the drug problem, which has pernicious effects on individuals as well as on the social, economic and political development of nations;

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of international drug control conventions, the Global Programme of Action and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

Realizing that the drug situation in Asia requires immediate attention and that there is a need for concerted effort and active cooperation at the subregional, regional as well as the international level to combat escalating drug problems;

Firmly believing in the importance of subregional cooperation, which has drawn the six countries signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in combating illicit drug supply and drug abuse problems;

Commend the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for its tremendous effort in initiating subregional cooperation and its continued support in implementing measures and programmes to eliminate drug problems;

Desire to create a zone free of illicit drug production, trafficking and use;

Hereby,

1. *Welcome with appreciation* the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998;

2. *Welcome also* all initiatives, resolutions, declarations, action plans and measures which will be adopted during the twentieth special session and which should be translated into concrete action;

3. *Strongly reaffirm* their determination to fight the problems of drug abuse, illicit trafficking and drug production in compliance with United Nations conventions on drug control, through a balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach and in the context of their social and economic development;

4. *Affirm* the readiness to redouble their efforts to support subregional and cross-border cooperation for the purpose of preventing the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs;

5. *Determine* to strengthen the commitment of the six signatory countries to cooperate concurrently both at the subregional and bilateral level in combating drugs;

6. *Decide* to establish an operational network among the national focal points of the six countries to coordinate subregional efforts against illicit drug crimes through intelligence sharing, harmonization of policies and coordination of operations;

7. *Agree* to eradicate illicit narcotic crop cultivation through alternative development and integrated approaches, taking into account the sustainable livelihood of traditional illicit crop cultivation communities;

8. *Urge* the international markets to support alternative development by providing market share and access for alternative cash crops in order to create a sustainable economic environment;

9. *Agree* that the States which are the sources, transit points and destinations of precursor chemicals used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shall actively pursue all means to tighten control measures for precursor chemicals;

10. *Reaffirm* the need to reinforce demand reduction programmes to cover all areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, with particular emphasis on mobilizing community resources and participation, and the need for drug education programmes to suit the target groups, especially juvenile and high-risk groups of drug abusers;

11. *Encourage* the early conclusion of mutual legal assistance treaties on a bilateral or multilateral basis among the six signatory countries to provide for the exchange of operational information, cooperation and support of control delivery, conspiracy investigations and the tracing of the assets and proceeds of drug trafficking and controlled substances;

12. *Also reaffirm* the desire to strengthen their cooperation and coordination in narcotic law enforcement by:

(a) Developing the legal framework and improving the existing legislation regime to facilitate the implementation of legal measures stipulated in the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1998;

(b) Combatting the laundering of money derived from illicit drug trafficking and other crimes related to illicit drugs;

(c) Intensifying the exchange of information and intelligence related to illicit drug production, illicit trafficking and the disposition of the proceeds of the illegal drug trade;

(d) Establishing programmes to tackle the production and abuse of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants, whereby necessary measures shall be taken to strengthen their national systems for regulatory, legal and administrative control over the importation, exportation, distribution, manufacture and use of main precursors for the production of heroine and amphetamine-type stimulants;

(e) Strengthening training and education for drug control officers;

13. *Decide* to explore other ways and means by which the six signatory countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control can work with the international community and international organizations to combat drugs;

14. *Request* the international community to give concrete support and/or assistance to the subregional programmes initiated by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which would contribute to the international effort in the fight against drug problems, as enshrined in the resolutions, declarations, action plans and measures of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.